

APR 5
RECOMMENDATION FOR ADMISSION; ORDER ADMITTING TO PRACTICE;
PAYMENT OF MEMBERSHIP FEE; OATH OF ATTORNEY; RESIDENT AGENT

(a) Recommendation for Admission. The Board of Governors shall recommend to the Supreme Court the admission or rejection of each applicant who has passed the bar examination or been approved for admission by motion, and, who has complied with the preadmission requirements set forth in this rule. A recommendation for admission shall be based upon the Board of Governors determination, after investigation, that the applicant appears to be of good moral character and in all respects qualified to engage in the practice of law. All recommendations of the Board of Governors shall be accompanied by the applicant's application for admission and any other documents deemed pertinent by the Board of Governors or requested by the Supreme Court. The recommendation and all accompanying documents and papers shall be kept by the Clerk of the Supreme Court in a separate file which shall not be a public record.

(b) Preadmission Requirements. Before an applicant who has passed the bar examination, or who qualifies for admission without passing the bar examination, may be admitted, the applicant must:

- (1) take and pass the Washington Law Component;
- (2) complete a minimum of 4 hours education in a curriculum and under circumstances approved by the Board of Governors;
- (3) pay to the Bar Association the annual license fee and any assessments for the current year;
- (4) file any and all licensing forms required of active members;
- (5) take the Oath of Attorney; and
- (6) designate a resident agent if required to do so by section (f).

For applicants who take and pass the bar examination, the preadmission requirements must be completed within 40 months from the date of the administration of the bar examination in which the score was earned. For applicants who apply by motion, the preadmission requirements must be completed within one year from the date of filing the application, except for good cause shown.

(c) Oath of Attorney. The Oath of Attorney must be taken before an elected or appointed judge, excluding judges pro tempore, sitting in open court in the state of Washington. In the event a successful applicant is outside the state of Washington and the Chief Justice is satisfied that it is impossible or impractical for the applicant to take the oath before an elected or appointed judge in this state, the Chief Justice may, upon proper application setting forth all the circumstances, designate a person authorized by law to administer oaths, before whom the applicant may appear and take said oath.

(d) Contents of Oath. The oath which all applicants shall take is as follows:

OATH OF ATTORNEY

State of Washington, County of _____ ss.

I, _____, do solemnly declare:

1. I am fully subject to the laws of the State of Washington and the laws of the United States and will abide by the same.
2. I will support the Constitution of the State of Washington and the Constitution of the United States.
3. I will abide by the Rules of Professional Conduct approved by the Supreme Court of the State of Washington.
4. I will maintain the respect due to the courts of justice and judicial officers.
5. I will not counsel or maintain any suit or proceeding which shall appear to me to be unjust, or any defense except as I believe to be honestly debatable under the law, unless it is in defense of a person charged with a public offense. I will employ, for the purpose of maintaining the causes confided to me, only those means consistent with truth and honor. I will never seek to mislead the judge or jury by any artifice or false statement.
6. I will maintain the confidence and preserve inviolate the secrets of my client, and will accept no compensation in connection with the business of my client unless this compensation is from or with the knowledge and approval of the client or with the approval of the court.
7. I will abstain from all offensive personalities and advance no fact prejudicial to the honor or reputation of a party or witness unless required by the justice of the cause with which I am charged.
8. I will never reject, from any consideration personal to myself, the cause of the defenseless or oppressed, or delay unjustly the cause of any person.

(Signature)

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO before me this _____ day of _____, 20__.

Judge

(e) Order Admitting to Practice. After examining the recommendation and accompanying papers transmitted by the Board of Governors, the Supreme Court may enter such order in each case as it deems advisable. For those applicants it deems qualified, the Supreme Court shall enter an order admitting them to the practice of law.

(f) Nonresident Lawyers; Resident Agent. There shall be no requirement that an applicant or a member of the Bar Association be a resident in the state of Washington. Every member, except a judicial member, of the Bar Association who does not live or maintain an office in the state of Washington shall file with the Bar Association the name and address of an agent within this state for the purpose of receiving service of process or of any other document required or permitted by statute or court rule to be served or delivered to a resident lawyer. Service or delivery to such agent shall be deemed service upon or delivery to the lawyer.

[Amended effective July 9, 1965; March 10, 1971; April 26, 1974; May 14, 1982; September 1, 1984; October 11, 1985; June 25, 2002; June 1, 2006; January 8, 2013; January 1, 2014.]
